

(a) the total number of cases registered by CBI against in Coal Mafia in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the details of cases processed during the last three years and outcome of investigation alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) the details of pending cases and the reasons for delay; and

(d) the details of action taken by the Government to curb the growing activities of coal mafias and result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Appointment of Judges

5521. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to appoint some more judges with a view to settle the delays in the court work due to engagement of several judges in cases of corruption etc. and piling of other cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Judge strength of High Courts is reviewed once in three years and the next review is due in 1998. While there is no proposal to create new posts, action is under way to fill up existing vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

[English]

Growth rate in Export and Import

5522. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of export and import during each of the last three years and the resultant trade deficit;

(b) the target set and achieved during the eighth Plan period;

(c) the target set for Ninth Plan period; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure achievement during the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the DGCI&S data, exports imports and trade deficit for the last three years is as under:

US \$ Million

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (P)
Imports	28654	36678	38548
Exports	26330	31797	33106
Trade Deficit	-2324	-4881	-5442

(b) and (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan document envisaged a growth rate of 13.6% per annum in real terms for exports of goods during the Plan period. As per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the export growth rate during Eighth Plan is placed at 11.4% per annum and for the Ninth Plan, export growth rate per annum of 14.5% has been visualised under accelerated growth scenario.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous process and steps are initiated by the Government to promote exports through simplification of policies and procedures, improving bilateral trade, debottlenecking of export infrastructure, and enhancing the quality and competitive edge of Indian products.

Fire in Coai Mines

5523. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal mines fields under fire at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of people affected in view of the various problems of the fire; and

(c) the measures taken to extinguish the fire and save the lives of the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Isolated but controlled fire exists in 99 coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL). There is no case of fire existing in any mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). State-wise break-up of mines under CIL where such fire is persisting is as under:-

State	No. of mines where fire exists
Bihar	74
West Bengal	16
Orissa	1
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	1

(b) and (c) The problem of fire which has affected surface and persons living around exists mainly in Jharia coalfield.

Out of 70 fires identified in Jharia coalfield of Bihar at the time of nationalisation of coking coal mines in 1972, 10 fires have been completely extinguished.

With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia coalfield fires, a detailed diagnostic study was undertaken under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project with World Bank assistance. The study has been completed and report submitted. As a follow-up action, two workshops have been held at Dhanbad and Pittsburgh, USA with a view to outline and finalise course of action. As per the report, 10,800 families are residing in the high risk zone of environmental pollution.

Government of India has constituted a high level Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Coal, to look into the problems of subsidence and fires in the Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields and recommend suitable measures to deal with the problems. The Committee has started its deliberations.

Coal Mining Operation

5524. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared the names of the Mouzas unstable and unsafe for habitation due to coal mining operation;

(b) if so, whether the population of those Mouzas have been shifted and rehabilitated with adequate compensation for their loss of properties and one employment in each affected family;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for stabilisation, reclamation and protection from all types of environmental hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, the names of the areas which had become unstable on account of unscientific mining carried out by the erstwhile owners have been declared unsafe.

(b) to (d) The concerned coal companies have been publishing appeals in the local Newspapers informing the residents about the instability of the underground workings below the built-in areas and requesting them to vacate but people are not willing to shift. Regular follow-up and liaison with the District Authorities and local MPs/MLAs is being maintained for evacuating people from the areas declared unsafe. Wherever feasible, action is taken to stabilise the unstable underground workings under the built-in areas adopting the innovative technology of Hydro-Pneumatic stowing.

With a view to solving the above problem in a com-

prehensive manner, a Committee has been constituted on 19/12/1996 with Secretary (Coal) as the Chairman and representatives of Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of West Bengal and Bihar, Director General Mines Safety, Coal India Limited, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited, Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited as members. The Committee is expected to submit its report by June, 1997.

[Transaltion]

Jute Mills

5525. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The number of public sector and private jute mills functioning in the country at present, Statewise;

(b) the State-wise, number of jute mills closed and the number of jute mills running in losses separately out of it;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive these mills;

(d) -whether the Government propose to extend assistance to these jute mills under United Nations Development Programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) As per existing status cases of every sick unit are to be referred to BIFR. This quasi-judicial body examines cases of rehabilitation. Revival schemes of the units are being prepared/examined by the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR. On receipt of the scheme BIFR decides cases of rehabilitation of individual unit.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is in the pipeline at present. However, these mills if required may obtain assistance/support under Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme.

Statement

The number of public sector and private jute mills functioning in the country

State	Private Sector	Public Sector	Total
1	2	3	4
West Bengal	50	6	56
Andhra Pradesh	4	-	4
U.P.	2	-	2